THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1889.

The Holiday Season.

season is upon us. Family reunions, gay festivities, the exchange of gifts of remembrance, fill the fast, fleeting hours. Amidst these gayeties there effect that there was too much "execuis room for thought, for thanksgiving, and for the work of sweet charity. Through the exercise of the kindlier graces of human character, there is unconsciously exhibited the results Committee THE CIZIZEN refrained from which have flowed from the advent into the world of the infant Jesus, whose life and teachings have made Christmas a glad day, and the world largely a Christian world.

and the nations unjust, but proves that the leaven of Christianity has not public officials in conducting public busivet leavened the whole lump. Christmas day has been the merries for the paper for a full account of the deliberalife of Him whom it commemorates, and may we also hope that the new year shall be not only happy, but happier than ever before.

The Chestnut Hill Station.

This pretty depot upon the New York and Greenwood Lake Railway, is now nearing completion. Looking out toward the east, where the trains are lost from sight in the deep cut, its graceful form attracts the eye from a great distance north and south. Soon trains will begin to stop, and it closed. There is now an opportunity, rect road to the new depot, which neighborhood.

Under the title of "A Reply to Mr. Review for December.

Remembering the statements which counter statements here given are

and the current which was passing and reduced the paving stones within alternating current is more easily than the continuous current.

where experts disagree, the average of distribution are invented. The public meeting on Friday last. The with each passing month, until at last a safe and economical system of elecoughly informed as to their merits.

eration the purchase of the Montclair Water Company's plant. A communication from Mr. John R. Bartlett, the President of the company, was read at the last meeting of the Town Committee stating that the company's expenditures up to date had been #200,000, and the town could have the plant for the above ted by the Town Committee was more amount with interest attached.

Transacting Public Business behind Closed Doors.

Members of the Bloomfield Improvement Association not long since indulged in some very caustic remarks about the "secret" sessions and "star chamber" proceedings of the Township Committee. The rush and whirl of the holiday The members of the committee felt considerably hurt by the criticisms, and did not hesitate to say so. The substance of the speeches made in the meetings of the Improvement Association were to the tive session" business carried on by the committee, and that there was too much whispering over transactions in which the public was concerned. Out of consideration for the members of the Township publishing these strictures at the time. It is an admitted fact that the position of Township Committeeman is a thankless one and subjects the honored incumbent to annoyance and abuse. Criticism is not necessarily abuse, and is often justifiable That men are still harsh and cruel, even when unpleasant. The denunciation of secretiveness on the part of a body of ness is eminently proper and just. Cus-tom has led the public to look to the newstions of bodies like a Township Committee. The public have a right to know everything that transpires there, from the voting of an appropriation for road repair to the compromise with a delinquent taxpayer. The newspaper that fails to give this full information fails in its duty either through design on the part of the officials to keep the public in ignorance, or by being in collusion with the officials who are consciously or unconsciously hoodwinking their constituents.

Electric Lighting Postponed.

The adoption of electric lights in place of gas in this town has been indefinitely postponed. The United Edison Electric will then ssume the prosaic duties of. Light Company last week, previous to the a railway station. It is important assemblage of the public meeting on days and Saturdays from 4 to 8 P. M. that for this purpose it should be Friday night, declined to enter into a made as accessible as possible. To contract on the terms proposed by the committee. The company's counsel, this end stone walks should be built H. M. Barrett, made this fact known to along the neighboring streets. Ave- the public at that meeting after several nues should also be opened directly to citizens had expressed their opinions in the depot. Especially should some the matter. The sentiment of the meetdirect thoroughfare be provided for ing as expressed was unanimously against the signing of the contract. Whether the residents on Forest Avenue. For declarations on the part of the company some years the bridge over the rail- would have been final had public sentiroad has been impassable, and this ment made itself manifest in their favor end of the avenue has been practically was not stated. There was a good attendance at the Hall.

by discontinuing the bridge along mittee, Mr. Theodore H. Ward, presided. Benson street, to secure the extension The other members of the committee of Forest Avenue to Wildwood Ter- were on the platform with him. Clerk at once becomes principal and bears interrace. This would give an almost di- Edward F. Farrand read the call of the est accordingly. meeting. Mr. J. D. Gallagher recommended that the contract be read, and would be a great convenience; to a each section be discussed separately. Mr large number of residents in this Amzi Dodd suggested that the question neighborhood. Several other projects whether the town wanted to enter into a for streets have been suggested, but contract at all be disposed of first. Mr. certainly none would be so advantageous as this. With proper ap- contract a probable waste of time, as it proaches the new depot will prove a had been published and the public given desirable attraction to this beautiful opportunity to familiarize themselves with its terms. Mr. Edward Oakes inquired whether the Town Committee were committed to the Edison Company, and The Dangers of Electric Light- said that he understood that other bids had been \$1000 lower. Mr. Amzi Dpdd then proceeded to give his views on the subject before the meeting. He said the Edison," Mr. George Westinghouse, first question to be considered was whether Jr., contributes some important facts we had come to a point where it was to the discussion of the dangers of necessary and expedient to change our Choice Teas and Coffees, electricity, in the North American present method of lighting our streets and substitute electric lights. General knowledge tu regard to electricity was yet in a very imperfect state. A great have been made in regard to the safe- advancement had been made in the past ty of the low-tension continuous cur- few years. New developments were rents of Mr. Edison, some of the constantly being made. In the present condition of the science a system involving all the latest improvements of the present might be obsolete in the near fusion of danger to life and property by the

Mr. Westinghouse says: "I have ture. Many debatable questions were inwitnessed the roasting of a large volved in the contract, questions in piece of fresh beef by a direct contin- which electrical experts themselves disauous current of less than 100 volts gree. There was a widespread apprehenwithin two minutes. With a con- introduction of the wires into the public tinuous current of 400 volts, a dog streets. The recent numerous accidents weighing fifty-seven and a half pounds chronicled in the newspapers give good was killed in forty seconds." He reason for this apprehension. Electric quotes from Mr. Edison as follows: Inghting was yet in an experiment of the should "Near the corner of William and experiment. There was much to be said Wall streets, New York, the under- in favor of the electric light. It possessed ground conductors of the Edison Illu- certain advantages over gas. Whether minating Company became crossed, it was an improvement or not was a debatable question. If it was universally considered so, the public would be in through them at a pressure of only favor of it. The public would lose nothone hundred and ten volts melted not ing by allowing this opportunity to make only the wires, but several feet of iron a contract go by. Whenever they were tubing in which they were incased, ready to make a contract there would always be parties ready to meet them. The present contract was no doubt a very good a radius of three or four feet to a one for the Edison Company. Mr. Dodd molten mass." He discusses meth- spoke of the eager competition among ods of distribution and underground the several electric light companies to cables with the effort to show that the get possession of territory. Mr. Edward = Wilde read a letter from Mr. R. S. Rudd and others in Glen Ridge, opposing the controlled, and less liable to accident, signing of the contract, based chiefly on an opposition to overhead wires. Mr. Without undertaking to decide Wilde himself also spoke against it, as did also Mr. Galagher. Mr. Gallaman will no doubt consider all meth, gher said that he had obtained figures

from electrical experts as to the cost of ods of using electricity for lighting putting wires under ground, which varpurposes as imperfect until there is led from \$20,000 to \$100,000 for a system less danger to human life than now, such as is comprehended in the proposed and until more economical methods contract. Mr. Wilde submitted a resolution that a committee of five citizens be appointed to make inquiry into the cost fire risk from electricity is also to be of an electric light system for this town, considered. Upon the whole, it is with the wires put under ground. Mr. likely that time will demonstrate the H. M. Barrett, speaking for the company, wisdom of the action taken at the gave a review of the whole transaction, from the introduction of the Bloomfield improvement Association's request to the experiments which are elsewhere Township Committee for the adoption of making upon an extensive scale will electric lights down to the present time, no doubt result in substantial gains Mr. Barrett denied any disposition of the with each passing month until at last company to take an unfair advantage of the township, and also related an allusion made by Mr. Wilde to "watered stock." tric lighting has been devised. Mean- Mr. Barrett said that particular is quiry while, it will be well to study the had been made with regard to the cost of various processes, so as to be thor- putting wires under ground. The best system yet devised was that of the Spiral Weld Tube Company, which cost \$5,000 per mile Mr. Barrett stated that the The township of Montelair has under consid. amount of capital that would, have to be laid out by the company organized to run the proposed electric light pant

would be as follows: To the Edison

Company, \$27.500; building lot, \$1.000;

plant, \$3,000. The contract just submit-

strict in its terms than any ever im-

posed on the company. The contract for street lighting could only be granted for one year at a time. There was a possibility that a future committee might refuse to renew it. The sentiment of the people just at present seemed adverse to making a contract, and not desiring to take any undue advantage, the Edison Company politely decline i to sign the contract, and withdrew from the field Mr. Ward said that this action of the company had practically taken the mat. DRESS SILKS, ter out of the hands of the committee. If the citizens wished to take any further action in the matter they were at liberty to do so. The committee then adjourned

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broke up without taking any action on the

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\$148,757.28 LIABILITIES. \$136,561.40

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ner example.

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